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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



theSUFlyer.com

New Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion is safe space for SU

CAROLINE STREETT / Gull Life editor
@carolstreett



Members of the SU community placed their hand prints for a mural to represent campus diversity.

/ Caroline Streett image

CAMPUS – Throughout the years, Salisbury University has seen a measurable growth in the diverse communities on its campus.

In a four-year effort to improve equity and inclusion on campus, seniors and representatives of the LGBTQIA+ community Thomas Mannion III and Ben Lenox have continued the efforts of SU alumni to establish a place where the diverse community could feel safe and at home on campus.

The goal came to fruition with the establishment of the new Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion, and in the spirit of inclusivity, various diverse marginalized groups share the space.

Located in Blackwell Hall, the center officially opened on Dec. 5 and is occupied by the diverse communities of LGBTQIA+, the Women's Forum and disAbility.

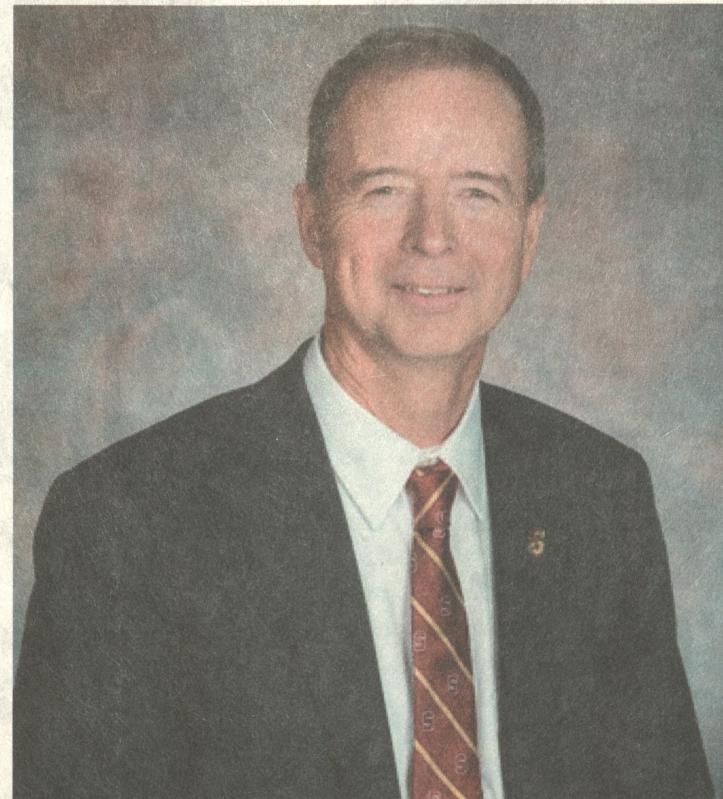
Each group has its own office with various resources applying to that specific community. The center's main purpose is to promote inclusivity and diversity by providing a space where both students and faculty can seek out resources while also meeting other diverse people and having open conversations.

As the president of the Sexuality and Gender Awareness student organization, Mannion believes that the center is a physical place where marginalized populations can connect with one another and feel accepted for who they are.

"Having a physical space is not only a promise to the

Center / page 4

SU's Pres. Wight breaks down his first semester, looks to future



/ Salisbury University Public Relations image

lenges.

"There [are] always a few bumps in the road ... any time you have close to 9,000 young adults together," Wight said. "That is part of being a residential campus. One of the consequences is [that] I don't [have a] nine-to-five job, I have a seven-day-a-week job."

However, the residential factor was additionally something Wight admired about his new home.

"It's great that this place is alive – so many people are around and having fun," Wight said.

The president attributed the highlights of his first semester to the students and their involvement on campus.

From his time eating in Commons, appearing as a guest instructor or witnessing the perseverance of the SU men's basketball team, the character of the student has been very special to Wight in his first semester.

"I think you know that our boys' basketball team has struggled a little bit – losing their coach right before the season – when they played and beat UMES, a Division I basketball team, [it showed that] the team has come together in a remarkable way – I'm just so proud of them," said Wight. "I would say that was one very special day, [along with] a couple of experiences in the dining hall – sitting with the students."

Since the president has gotten accustomed to his new position, he is beginning to implement specific changes.

These improvements revolve around four topics, which he believes are important to benefiting SU and its community.

His four priorities will focus on keeping college affordable, building a culture of inclusion, establishing greater community partnerships and stewardship.

"I've begun to make some personal decisions, and I am rolling out these four priorities," said Wight. "We will be working with the city of Salisbury, chamber of commerce, the school system and the community colleges to make sure that SU is poised to be a leader in our community – not just a member."

The SU president added there is still plenty of time for adjustments before he officiates his policies at his formal

HANNAH HYAT / New editor
@hmhyat1

WIGHT'S FIRST SEMESTER – Salisbury University President Charles A. Wight has finally settled into his new home and is ready to make his mark on SU.

Wight began his role as SU's president early July and spent his first few months getting acquainted in his new environment.

He was thankful for the welcome he received from SU and surrounding organizations, which helped smooth his transition.

"My wife Victoria Rasmussen and I have been welcomed warmly to this community – both the SU community and the greater Salisbury, Wicomico County community," Wight said. "We've met thousands of people, made some new friends and we're all settled ... this is very much like home now."

Wight characterized his first semester as a wonderful experience. But, he admitted it also included a few chal-

ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper—composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep the SU community informed and entertained.

Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, Delaware. A total of 1,500 copies are distributed on campus per circulation.

The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact staff. Thank you.

Wight

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spring inauguration ceremony.

Formal inauguration ceremonies are traditionally known as an opportunity for presidents to put their stake in the ground and say, "This is what I want to accomplish at SU."

"It's still a long way off, and [I want] first to give [the priorities] some audience," said Wight. "To give people some opportunities to tell me, 'Yeah, that's right!' or 'Maybe that's not quite right, maybe you want to do this instead' ... before I really put that stake in the ground in April."

Wight oversees a substantial amount of process in his first fall semester as well.

The presence of SU has been reaching past just the boundaries of its campus.

The university was a part of the 2018 National Folk Festival, and took part in communal events such as I Love Salisbury and Shred Day to positively impact the city.

SU also created benefits for its students and faculty through the fall.

This semester, the school hosted elec-

tion debates, presented the new career closet and opened two new buildings downtown. The new locations included a new spirit store and a regional center for geographic information services.

"[The regional GIS] has contract work with cities and counties all over the Delmarva Peninsula," said Wight. "A lot of information to help certain people to understand - to make government decisions."

SU made on-campus additions as well, such as its newest organization, the Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion, which opened Dec. 5.

"[We're] building a culture of inclusion at SU to the point where people not only feel welcome here," Wight said, "but feel that they belong here."

Wight expressed his appreciation for office staff, who are just a few of many who were able to help him make all this progress possible.

"Every president has a lot of demands during his or her time," Wight said. "The people in this office have really helped me manage not only my calendar, commitments, messages and speeches - that has been an enormous help."

■

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Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Students, please include your name and class. Faculty members, please include your department. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. The Flyer reserves the right to refrain from publishing any text. Please email your letter as an attachment to Chase Gorski, Editor-in-chief, at cgorski1@gulls.salisbury.edu, or in person at Office 125W in GSU's Student Activities Center. Deadline for submission is Friday at 5 p.m. Please email letters subjected "Letter to the Editor."

Trump denies climate change again, despite new report



/ U.S. Global Change Research image

The report estimates that "with continued growth in emissions at historic rates, annual losses in some economic sectors are projected to reach hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century."

It predicts high economic costs due to heat-related deaths to be around \$141 billion, infrastructure damage around \$32 billion and sea level rise around \$118 billion.

The White House released the report on Black Friday, with some scientists accusing the Trump administration of attempting to bury the findings on a holiday to lessen public awareness.

This report directly challenges Trump's environmental initiatives such as pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement, pledging to increase coal production and jobs and attempting to repeal environmental regulation will help the U.S. economy.

SOFIA CARRASCO / Editorial editor

NATIONAL HEADLINES - The Fourth National Climate Change Assessment was released early on Black Friday and completely contradicts President Donald Trump's assertions that environmental deregulation will help the U.S. economy.

The 1,600-page report, released every four years as mandated by Congress, is a nonpartisan document, which was created by 13 federal agencies and 300 scientists utilizing the most recent studies and findings.

Warmer temperatures, rising sea levels and the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters pose a serious threat to the economy, especially industries that depend on natural resources such as agriculture, tourism and fisheries.

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Michelle Obama's memoir "Becoming" is 2018 bestseller

DONOVAN MACK / Staff writer

REVIEW - Michelle Obama's memoir "Becoming" has sold over two million copies in less than a month and has been named the best-selling book of the year in the United States.

Throughout the book, the former first lady speaks candidly about her life before, during and after becoming the first African-American FLOTUS.

"Becoming" was released on Nov. 13 and now has over 3.4 million copies in circulation, not including e-book purchases, according to Crown Publishing Group.

In addition to her soaring sales, Obama is also currently doing a book tour in 10 cities across the United States, many of which have been sold out.

In her memoir and in the live interviews conducted on the tour, Obama discusses life values and lessons she learned from her childhood, her college years at Princeton University as well as before and after she married her husband, former President Barack Obama.

The book has gained incredible success and publicity due to the immense amount of credibility and status Obama still has in the United States. The content within the book focuses on her development as a woman, which is both noteworthy and inspiring.

Obama presents some incredible stories and describes many experiences that she underwent in life.

One of the most moving sections of her memoir is when she discusses her miscarriage with Barack before her two children Malia and Sasha were born. She reveals the struggles and hardships of this traumatic experience and how she underwent in vitro fertilization treatment in order to have her children.

Obama is part of the rising number of women who are struggling to have children after a certain age, making her more vulnerable to criticism from the public. However, she attributes this experience to helping her become who she is today, an important theme throughout her memoir.

Obama also discusses her budding relationship with Barack as well as the stresses placed on their



/ Capital One Arena image

marriage during his presidency.

"Becoming" establishes a sense of relatability with its readers and showcases Obama as a real woman who has endured hardships to get to where she is today.

Obama is a prime example of a former first lady using her platform to inspire social change while staying out of the political rat race.

Staying true to herself, but also to her brand as the first black FLOTUS, she has consistently stood up for women's rights while also expressing disdain for outright prejudice or those against women's rights.

Obama also mentions the emotions she went through when more and more sexist and racist comments were said by the current president.

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Assessment

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tal regulations like the Clean Power Plan and fuel economy rules. The report argues that "transformations in the energy sector—including the displacement of coal by natural gas and increased deployment of renewable energy—along with policy actions at the national, regional, state, and local levels" are necessary actions needed to be taken today, not in the future.

In a recent interview with the president on Monday, he outright stated, "I don't believe it," and also said he only read "some" of the report.

One of the biggest themes in the report is that time is running out and action needs to be taken immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stop the warming of the planet.

Allie Nuttall, a junior at Salisbury University, believes that Trump is not doing a good job addressing the immediate threat of climate change by ignoring it.

"He's suppressing it and denying it, and particularly, Republicans are denying it and think that what he is saying is the truth," Nuttall said. "But I do also feel like some Republicans don't believe what Trump is saying and want to fix it because it's our future. It's our country, and we need to take a stand."

Nuttall did not hear about the report when it was released Nov. 23. It wasn't until one of her roommates brought it up that she realized the gravity of climate change.

"I think a lot more needs to be done about this issue, and not just a report coming out that many people won't read," Nuttall said. "Talking about it lets a lot of people know where these problems stand with Trump, and shows that he doesn't care about a majority of the population that will be deeply affected by climate change."

Climate change is proven to unequally impact low-income communities, people of color and women and children. But this report extends the effects of climate change to include the entire country.

In light of this report, Trump's denial of climate change is impacting the future of our country and is etching closer to being irreversible. ♦

Bestseller

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In a quote from the book, Obama writes, "we were now up against a bully, challenging the dignity of our country with practically every utterance."

In an interview with Robin Roberts on ABC, she explained her reaction to Donald Trump winning the presidency and how she combated Trump by expressing support for Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016.

"I articulated my rage and my fear along with my faith that with this election, Americans understood the true nature of what they were choosing between," said Obama.

On her book tour, Obama will be doing personal sit-down interviews discussing her book, what her life was like during her husband's presidency and how her life is now.

"Becoming" has become one of the best-selling books of 2018 and has held the No. 1 spot on the New York Times Best Seller list and appeared on countless others. Oprah Winfrey has also endorsed the book to be a part of her book club. "Becoming" can be found in all major bookstores and online. ♦

Write for Editorial

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Why we need more shows like "Red Table Talk"

DONNOVAN MACK / Staff writer



/ E! News image

REVIEW – "Red Table Talk" is a new talk show on Facebook Watch hosted by award-winning actress Jada Pinkett Smith, along with her daughter Willow Smith and her mother Adrienne Banfield-Norris. This show stands out because it discusses sensitive topics in today's society and provides perspectives from three different generations.

The talk show entails very candid conversations about the panelists' personal lives, but also highlights important topics today that deserve a conversation, such as surviving divorce, domestic abuse and the racial divide.

"Red Table Talk" premiered in April and recently restarted in October. The very first episode currently has 29.5 million views, and the latest episode, with Pinkett Smith's younger brother, titled "Learning to Forgive," has almost six million views.

This show stands out compared to other family shows because it does not revolve around drama or fall into the stereotypical "reality TV" craziness and dysfunction. Instead, the three generations of women interact openly and honestly, without judgment.

"Red Table Talk" offers a literal roundtable discussion that is set in the Smiths' living room, which fosters open communication and advice in a comfortable setting.

One of the most moving episodes is titled "Surviving Loss," where Willow Smith admits that she briefly self-harmed. This revelation brings Pinkett Smith to tears, but she allows her daughter to express her thoughts and prompts a discussion of youth depression.

The three women mostly share their viewpoints on women's issues through their personal experiences and how they would like to see change in the upcoming years or generations.

"Red Table Talk" also features celebrity guests in every episode that provide another unique perspective on the episode's topic. ♦

Center

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iversity, but it creates a visibility for the community, and it also grants people permission to be themselves," Mannion said. "These marginalized groups that are so often sectioned— with every group fighting for a space — but this way, we're all together, and so it really encourages a fostering of connections.

The center is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and all students are welcome to read literature, conduct meetings, or even just hang out. There are also two conference rooms available through booking at the Multicultural Student Services Office.

Director of Multicultural Student Services Vaughn White believes the center sends a message to current and prospective SU students that we are taking steps in the right direction of "giving every student a sense of belonging."

Faculty Chair of the SU Women's Forum Dr. Elsie Walker shed light on the fact that in her 16 years at the university, she has seen a large change in the number of diverse peoples that have entered her classroom in recent years.

Walker helped to integrate the Women's Forum Center into a place where faculty and students can understand and appreciate diverse peoples here at SU.

"I think it's also about creating an environment where the university culture can change a little bit and people feel more able to bring their whole selves to work," Walker said.

The Women's Center plans to involve the community in events like mother support groups while also providing students and faculty a place to embrace human rights, family life and culture, and handle the stress of balancing academic and personal lives.

"It's about creating safe spaces that honor and empower

diversity populations on campus," Walker said. "It's about having spaces where people can come and meet, share ideas, be inspired, find resources, plan events, meet with various groups that champion the rights of our diverse student body."

The new disAbility Center centers around the capital letter "A" to stress the idea that we are all differently abled.

This center was an effort instilled by members of the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society — a society that gives recognition to academically successful students with disabilities.

Vice President of DAP Will Fried considers himself a strong advocate for the new center because he believes the current Center for Disabilities is very confidential, and requires appointments, whereas the CEJI is a more open environment.

"I think it's really important because there's an un-confidential space where students with disabilities, and students that have gender-neutral identities, and just anyone who is marginalized can have a specific place to host different programs, and have a central location for more education," Fried said.

DAP also has a mentor system for students with disabilities, and with this new space, Fried believes it will be easier for students to meet with their mentors and get to know them.

Nyasha Wills, graduate assistant for LGBTQIA Programs, emphasized that this center is the next step in making the SU community understand diversity and embrace inclusivity.

"I'm passionate about diversity and inclusion because I want to bring meaning to those words," Wills said. "I feel like a lot of times, people use those words without necessarily understanding what it means, and I want to change that." ■

TheFLYER

GULL LIFE

GRADUATE DEFIES COMMUNITY COLLEGE STIGMA / p6

SU students still advocating for more counselors

CAROLINE STREETT / Gull Life editor
@carolstreett

CAMPUS – Reports of mental health struggles are on the rise worldwide, and at Salisbury University, this rise can be seen firsthand.

In recent years, a number of students have come forward to raise the concern of a need for more counseling services.

Dr. Kathleen Scott, director of the Salisbury University Counseling Center, has confirmed an increase in the need for more counselors at the center.

"The number of students that have come into the counseling center – I've been here since 2007 – and every single year, the number of students coming here has increased, and in terms of staffing, around 2002, we had 4.5 full time equivalency ... so we're still, in the past 16 years, at that same number of staff FTE," Scott said.

The International Association of Counseling Services recommends that the ratio of counselors to students be 1 to 1,000 or 1 to 1,500.

In 2018, Salisbury had a total enrollment of 8,714 students, revealing that SU has about half of the recommended number of full-time counselors needed to suit the students' growing need for mental health services.

SU's Student Government Association had a petition last spring to get more staff in the center, and there was also a motion made before the faculty senate to do the same thing.

Senior Ben Lenox has made efforts to better the counseling center at SU since his freshman year.

"Having experience, having tried to use the counseling services my freshman year, I found that it was very difficult to get an appointment, and that when I did get an appointment, the range of services wasn't exactly what I expected coming into college," Lenox said.



Marshall Haas image

"I began to work with SGA to sort of figure out a way that we could open up a dialogue with the counseling center, administration and students to not only just discuss the state of mental health on college campuses, but to see what we could do about improving the services that we offer."

Lenox explained that over the years, this project has "waxed and waned," and sometimes Lenox and SGA had to put up a bit of a fight with administration, but it was always more about strategic planning and budgeting resources and less about the principle of it all.

Each year, the state Legislature and the Board of Regents allocates a certain number of permanent employee positions to the university, and Lenox believes it is important that SU "spreads those positions equitably."

Lenox emphasized that this effort has been inherently collaborative, given that the university is allocated a very low number of permanent positions each year.

The students' efforts resulted in the option of an additional staff member — and SGA was advocating for an-

other counselor — however, Student Affairs made it an assistant director position.

Scott believes that this addition to the staff will help, but she highlights that an assistant director will be more involved in administrative duties rather than the duties of serving the students as a full-time counselor.

The counseling center has yet to hire this additional staff member, for the decision was approved last spring, but the university's search to fill the position is still ongoing.

"Typically, the division of Student Affairs gets several positions each year, and it's a matter of priorities, and a lot of departments within Student Affairs are smaller staffs, and everybody's needs are significant and important to providing services to students," Scott said.

A large setback in the counseling center's low level of staff is the difficulty in prioritizing the needs of faculty in various departments. But it comes into question:

Counselor crisis / page 6

SU brings together the greater entrepreneurial community

CAROLINE STREETT / Gull Life editor

PERDUE HALL – In celebration of National Entrepreneurship Month, faculty and students at Salisbury University have worked to promote the various entrepreneurial programs that the school has to offer.

Many of the entrepreneurial programs are based out of the Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Hub. The Hub's main purpose is to provide guidance for SU students who are looking to start a business.

Burke highlighted that the Hub workers want the Hub and the center to be a place of community for entrepreneurs of all kinds to come together and share ideas and advice.

"So we're all kind of working together — being an entrepreneur is a lonely job," Burke said. "What we're trying to do is create a community of entrepreneurs where even entrepreneurs that have different business ideas can work together on the foundational concepts of starting a business."

A number of student ideas have come to fruition with the help of the resources that SU provides. SU CEO President and Entrepreneurship Consultant Nick Patterson, a senior, has seen students who don't at first realize their potential to succeed, and through the encouragement and help that the Hub provides, they are able to prosper.

"I think entrepreneurship is important because it's applicable learning, and I think it's very important for all students to realize that the stuff they are learning has practical value in the real world," Patterson said. "As well as that with entrepreneurship, the end goal is different for everybody, but it really gets down to having the freedom to achieve the lifestyle that you want."

Patterson believes that it is important to "plant the seed in students' minds that they can achieve and they can become more."

Sophomore Lindsay Jones is one example of a student who has utilized the services SU provides to her benefit and has seen positive results because of it.

As CEO and founder of the company Cupcakes by Frosted, Jones has been pursuing her entrepreneurial dreams since she was 14 years old.

The location of Ocean City, Maryland ultimately inspired her to start her company because of its attraction to tourists.

Ultimately, students can go in with just an idea or an already started business to seek advice on what the next



The Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Hub is located on the first floor of Puerdue Hall. / Alex Valdes image

things that they offered for entrepreneurship and that made me want to pursue my dream even more," Jones said.

Jones received second place in last year's Student Entrepreneur Competition and was the first freshman to ever make it that far in the competition.

Winning the competition helped Jones to grow her company, for she received \$14,000 in prize money, along with her own office space in the Hub. Jones accredits a large amount of her success to the support and resources offered at SU.

"They offered so many classes and additional programs that are free that can enhance your business," Jones said. "They do copyrighting sessions, marketing classes and workshops, so that's really helped me a lot."

"When I came to Salisbury University, I saw all the

Entrepreneurship / page 6

Entrepreneurship

/ from page 5

Jones enjoys owning her own business most for the freedom it brings her to make her own decisions and use her creative mind to the best of her ability.

Jones explained that Cupcakes by Frosted is centered around community ideals, which she believes sets her business apart from competitors in the area.

"Other companies might just be focused on delivering the best desserts, whereas we're really focusing on donating and giving back to the community," Jones said.

In seeing her dreams as a 14-year-old girl come to fruition, Jones urges all of her peers to take advantage of the Hub because it could be the push that makes their dreams a reality.

"A lot of people think that you need money to start a business, when in reality, you don't. You just need a vision and people to support you," Jones said. "I started my business with nothing, and now it's worth a lot."

In his advice to those who are unsure what the first step is in starting a business, Burke's advice is to "just show up" and "be fearless."

"If they come through the doors of the Hub and they show an interest, we're here to help them, and technically all of our help and support is free to the students," Burke said.

The Hub is initially an effort to help take away the hesitation someone may have in acting on an idea.

"Helping students and giving them the encouragement that they can do it. We can't guarantee anything," Burke said. "But we can help them to be further along than they were before they walked through the doors."

Counselor crisis

/ from page 5

Shouldn't students' mental health be a top priority?

Scott pointed out a previous effort made by students at the University of Maryland, College Park in which students came forward with their concerns on extreme wait times and the need for more counselors. The UMD students were successful in their efforts and received several new positions.

In terms of SU's counseling situation, Scott encourages students to be vocal about their needs, for if the university sees that the students are advocating for a specific issue, perhaps university officials will be more inclined to address it.

As a means of trying to cope with the unbalanced student-to-counselor ratio, the center has tried to make a transition to more group therapy sessions, as well as moving to every-other-week sessions and a switch to 30-minute consultations instead of an hour.

"I really like group therapy for students because it's 8-12 students and two counselors, and students talk about whatever is going on in their lives that they want to talk about, and typically there's some overlap, maybe a couple people have anxiety, and people have family or relationship issues," Scott said. "But there's also differences, and you also are learning to communicate better and getting feedback from each other as you're talking."

Struggling with one's mental health can feel like a very lonely place, and Scott wants to reassure students that they are not alone in this battle.

The center also takes part in outreach programs including its annual "Chalk It Up" event in which students can relieve stress through drawing while having a chance to interact with and get to know the counselors in a more comfortable setting.

The center is currently offering an online program called "Kognito at Risk" that teaches students how to recognize signs of distress in their friends and how to refer someone to the counseling center.

Kognito offers both a program for faculty members and a program for students, and Scott believes that this "realistic and engaging" program will help teachers and students to handle situations revolving around mental health.

Over the past four years, Lenox has seen a positive transformation in the services the center provides, but he emphasizes that there is still a need for more counselors.

"In that sense, I think yes, we're making steps toward progress, but I definitely think that there's always more work to be done, and I'm a firm believer that the more positions we have available within the counseling center, the more flexible they are going to be able to be," Lenox said.

When it comes to mental health as a whole, Lenox thinks a big problem in addressing it is society's tendency to desensitize situations.

"So many people are suffering from symptoms of depression and anxiety, and all of these things that plague college campuses," Lenox said. "I think we are not honest with ourselves when we feel those things."

Graduating SU student defies community college stigma

MEGAN SOUDER / Staff writer

SPOTLIGHT – Students are decorating their caps, gathering their gowns and preparing to take the stage for Salisbury University's Fall 2018 Commencement.

The ceremony is being held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center on Dec. 19. Often compared to the spring commencement, many students believe the fall commencement is a toned-down version, and something inferior, because it is less traditional to graduate in the winter term.

According to Provost Project Manager and Salisbury University Commencement Planner Kimberly Meyer, December graduation is a smaller scale ceremony in the aspect of attendance but by no means in the level of celebration.

"We include all of the same components as the May ceremonies – special awards, honors recognition, student commencement speaker and the traditional walk across the stage by our graduates," Meyer said. "The stage is lined with beautiful red poinsettias that celebrate the festive occasion."

In addition to a festive venue and a shorter ceremony due to less students in the graduating class, students who graduate early also have the advantage of applying to jobs on the "off season" as opposed to spring graduates.

The fall commencement ceremony is just as unique as the paths that the students took to get there. Traditionally, the societal expectation of students is for them to finish high school, apply to a university, attend classes and graduate in four years.

There is a stigma surrounding students who don't follow that path, who may decide to go to a community college or take more time than the customary four years.

Allison Brannon, a communications major with a concentration in human communication and a minor in psychology, first attended Carroll Community College to receive her associate degree before transferring to SU.

Because of her time spent at community college, Brannon was able to not only graduate early, but also graduate as a member of Psi Chi and Lambda Pi Eta honor societies, along with receiving the Latin honors of Summa Cum Laude.

People sometimes frown upon going to a community college and may assume it's a "watered-down version of a four-year college."

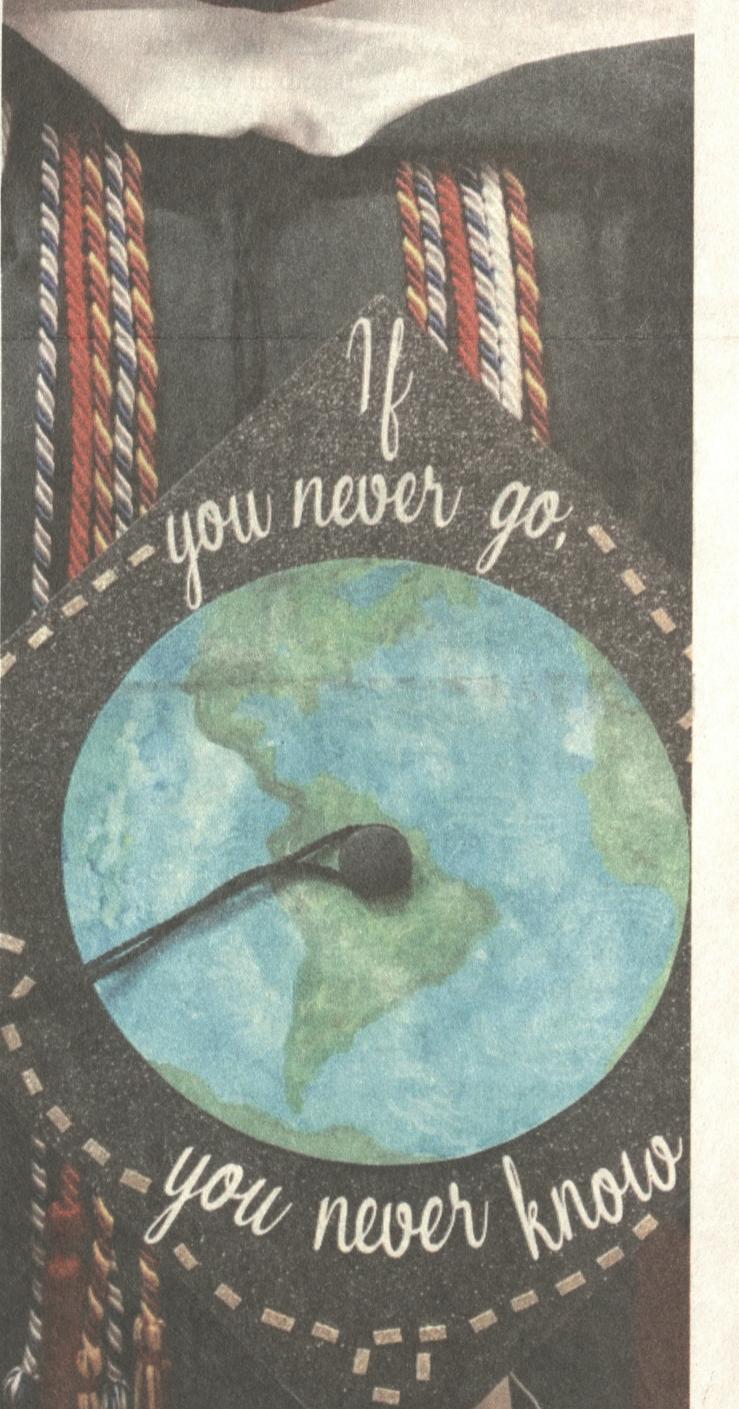
Brannon found community college to be a great place to learn about her academic interests and take care of general education classes without paying the full price of two-year tuition.

It's a financially responsible decision, and in Brannon's experience, it was not a hindrance to her academics and was the best option for her.

For many students, including Brannon, it may also be difficult adjusting to transferring.

"When I transferred to Salisbury, it was a bit of a culture shock because it was a very different environment than community college," Brannon said. "But luckily, I met a lot of great friends, and some of my closest friends have even come from group projects," Brannon said.

One of Brannon's favorite memories at SU was a group project in which her and her group members con-



Megan Souder image

ducted a food drive.

"It was a semester-long project. The group got so close, and it was such a win when we donated the food," Brannon said.

When it comes down to her career goals, Brannon explained that SU's curriculum has helped her to "widen her goals globally."

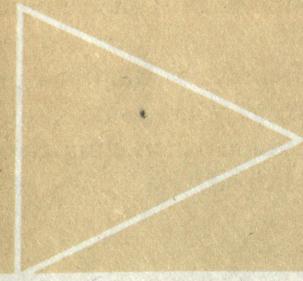
Brannon is finishing her credits by going on a two-week study abroad trip to Scotland with the communications department in January and will be pursuing a job after.

Although her time at SU is coming to an end, Brannon gave some words of advice to the current and incoming students at the university.

"Make sure you get involved on campus somehow, and choose friends that support your goals academically and socially," Brannon said. "The people you surround yourself with will help you figure out how your time is best spent."

Write for Gull Life

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TheFLYER

SPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS

SU men's basketball is off to best start in program history at 9-0

CURRENT RECORDS Dec. 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL

9-0 (1-0 CAC)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

7-2 (1-0 CAC)

MEN'S SWIMMING

3-4 (1-1 CAC)

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

2-5 (0-2 CAC)

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

Jan. 5

SU WBK v. Penn State Harrisburg - 2 p.m.

Jan. 5

SU MBK v. Penn State Harrisburg - 4 p.m.

Jan. 16

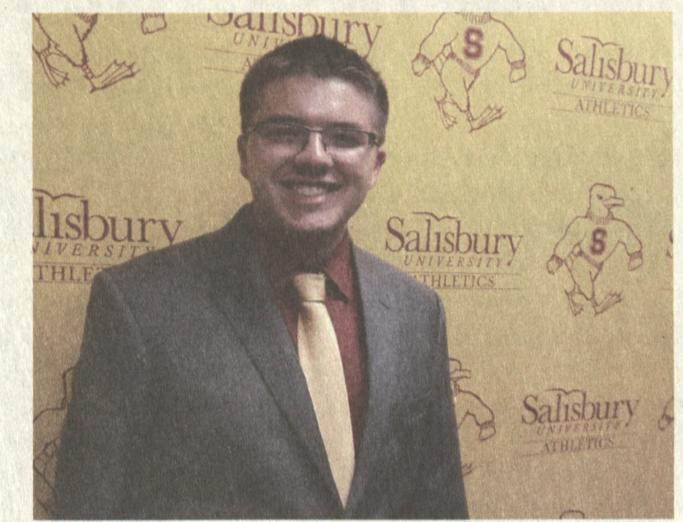
SU WBK v. York (Pa.) - 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 16

SU MBK v. York (Pa.) - 7:30 p.m.

Editor's note: Thank you, Sea Gull nation

CHRIS MACKOWIAK / Sports editor
@cmackowiakSGSN



Mackowiak after a football broadcast this fall.
/ Christine Mackowiak image

for that student-athlete.

It is many emotions washing over you, both happy and sad. The good obviously comes with the friendships and amazing moments that you have had the opportunity to be a part of.

The sadness certainly resembles the fact that this chapter in the journey of life has come to an end. It is time to leave the nest.

I remember my first true experience with SU Athletics. In athletic terms, I was a true freshman brought on from my days as a play-by-play broadcaster at North Penn High School in Lansdale, Pa. with little knowledge of what to expect broadcasting at the collegiate level.

After three years of announcing high school sports, I remember being in awe of the statistics and program information that I had at my disposal on a whim as a broadcaster here. With my preparation and a lesson on Maryland pronunciations from then-SU Sports Information Graduate Assistant Kevin Dargin, I was ready for the Elmer Lord Soccer Classic.

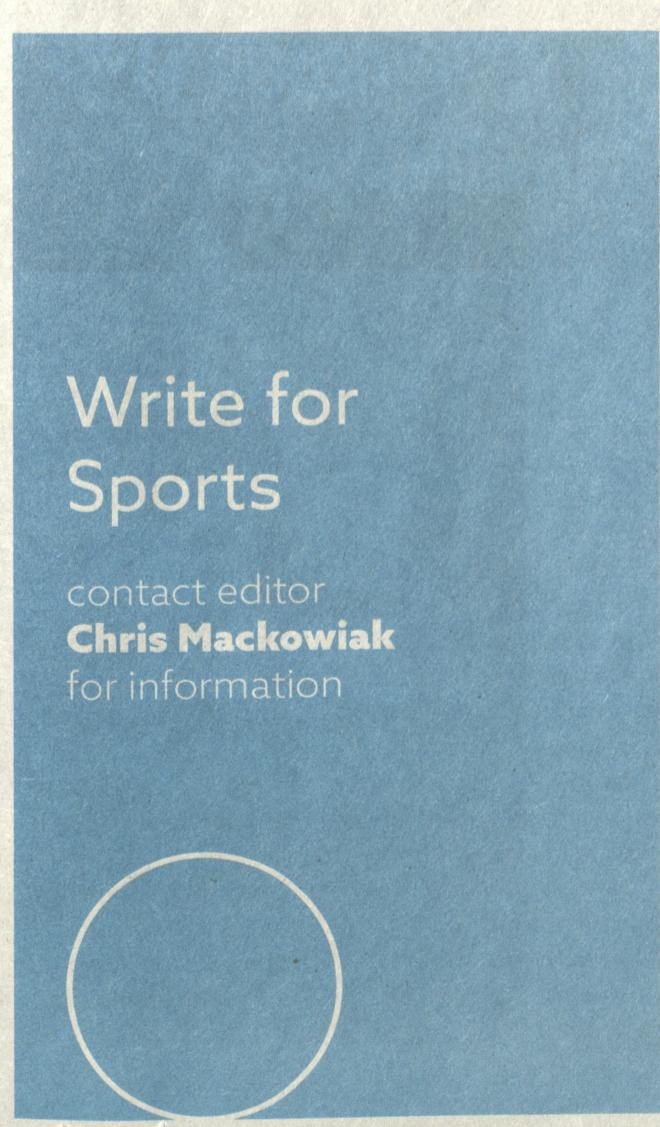
Weirdly enough, my first-ever shift with the Sea Gull Sports Network was a solo one. The United States Merchant Marine Academy was visiting the then-SU Soccer Complex to face the SU men's soccer program.

That day will always have an effect on me. Not only was it my first SGSN broadcast, but also, the result had a unique impact on my future covering SU

Thank you / page 8



FEATURED THIS PRINT: SU sophomore guard Gary Bridell takes an open three-pointer vs. Goucher. He leads SU in three-point percentage. Nov. 28. / Brendan Link image



Consistency in the paint starts with a former Seahawk

CHRIS MACKOWIAK / Sports editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL – This season, James Foley is going up for dunks on the basket in the maroon and gold. Just a few years ago, though, he was doing the same thing against the Sea Gulls.

The Salisbury University men's basketball junior forward began his collegiate career in the fall of 2015, well across the Chesapeake Bay. The Arnold, Md. native was initially a Seahawk at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

His early time with the Seahawks offered an impressive start for Foley, who made 27 appearances during the 2015-16 season. As he progressed as the calendar pages turned, Foley saw increased time for St. Mary's, starting 16 of its final 18 games, which included both matchups against his current school.

Because both the Seahawks and Sea Gulls reside in the Capital Athletic Conference, the two programs play a home-and-home series each season. That season, the sides split that series.

The then-rookie made his introduction into the starting lineup against Salisbury in a St. Mary's victory on Jan. 2, tallying seven rebounds, two assists and 11 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

Unfortunately for Foley, the same success was not replicated in the second game that season on Jan. 27 as the Seahawks fell at home by 32 points. Foley fouled out of the game after playing just 14 minutes and going a perfect 3-for-3 from the floor for six points.

He finished out his first collegiate season averaging 19.6 minutes per game alongside shooting 50 percent from the field.

However, his first season was also his last as a Seahawk. Foley felt that St. Mary's just was not a good fit for him.

"When I visited Salisbury during my year off, I loved it," Foley said. "The guys on the team I loved even more. I'm glad I came."

After a full year away from the game, Foley reentered Maggs Physical Activities Center to play basketball, this time as a Sea Gull. He showed a spark in his



Foley defends against a Goucher College guard. Nov. 28. / Brendan Link image

first appearance to start last season, scoring 11 points against Washington College.

Despite three additional double-figure games last season, Foley hit some obstacles along the way, missing a few games during the season. Averaging just 4.7 points per game and 2.6 rebounds per game in 24 appearances, the SU forward faced a few injuries, which limited him to just 12.3 minutes per game.

Two of his 24 appearances were in the SU victories over his former school, though. Seeing 27 minutes between both contests, Foley's performance on Jan. 10 brought six points and five rebounds for the Sea Gulls.

Now in his third season playing Division III basketball, the Annapolis Area Christian School grad-

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Thank you

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Athletics.

The result on that fall day in 2015 was also the 400th career victory for then-SU head coach Dr. Gerry DiBartolo. As a freshman still just a few days into college myself, that moment showed me how proud of a tradition SU Athletics was and is today.

It is also one of those days I look back on and really see the beauty in how things developed beyond that moment years down the line.

Over my time with *The Flyer* and SGSN, I did end up covering and working with DiBartolo many times. Also, one of the coaches that I have developed the best relationship with was waiting in the wings that day, now-SU men's soccer head coach Alex Hargrove.

Through many meetings over the past three seasons with Hargrove about tactics ahead of practices at Sea Gull Soccer Stadium, the SU men's soccer program is the program that I can say that I was the play-by-play broadcaster for during all four of my years at SU.

Sept. 4, 2015 was also the day that I first met SU Sports Information Director Tim Brennan. He will attest to this story: Our first conversation came at the end of my first broadcast.

Brennan came into the press box, shook my hand and told me that I would definitely be getting more work. He also informed me that I was saying "Salisbury" the wrong way for the two-hour match. Now, I can say that after 3.5 years covering the Sea Gulls, I am a huge proponent of the "Sawls-bury" movement.

After Brennan quickly dashed out of the press box, I turned to Dargin and asked who that was. Dargin gave me a bewildered look and said that it was our boss. As funny as it is, that is how my relationship began with one of my closest mentors and friends on this campus.

I was very happy that I left a great impression in more ways than one that day, but having a first day like that on the job really drove me to be the best that I could be.

From there, I guess you could say the rest is history. As I saw more work as a freshman early on, I grew close with the senior class of SGSN broadcasters, including fellow freshman broadcaster Drew Kessler (now a student over at Slippery Rock University).

One of those seniors was Ricky Pollitt, who I immediately looked up to as a role model as a reporter and broadcaster within SU Athletics. Somehow, some way, Pollitt and I spent much time together in several SGSN broadcast booths throughout my freshman year.

From the infamous Isaiah Taylor catches in the 2015 Regents' Cup come-



Mackowiak and Sea Gull Sports Network color commentator Sam Hunter.

/ Chris Mackowiak image

back to broadcasting the SU men's lacrosse journey to a 2016 national title, our time in the booth together had a profound impact on my development. A random text from Pollitt into the SGSN group chat is what spurred on my hiring as *The Flyer*'s next sports editor at the end of the 2015-16 school year.

That freshman year set the foundation for the coverage I have provided over the past 2.5 years as sports editor of *The Flyer* and the last 3.5 years as a play-by-play broadcaster at SGSN. As you can tell, it is always the little things that make the greatest impacts for me.

For anyone that knows me personally, they know that by far I have one favorite television show: "The Office." Yes, I am one of the many people that have watched through the series upwards of seven or eight times.

Perhaps, though, the quote from the show that gets me the most comes in the final few minutes of the series finale, which aired in 2013.

"I wish there was a way to know you're in 'the good old days' before you've actually left them," Andy Bernard said, played by Ed Helms.

Every time I watch the series finale, I connect my time at SU with that quote. While it did connect with me working more in my final semester this fall, I always knew in some way how truly "good" these days covering SU Athletics were. Luckily, I somehow knew that during these four years.

On a given day in the past two spring seasons, I might be picking the brain of the winningest coach in NCAA lacrosse history. Or talking soccer tactics with Hargrove at practice ahead of an SU soccer match. Or listening to gridiron tales from Coach Wood. Or taking in SU men's basketball shootaround.

I always have felt like I was too lucky to get these opportunities. That is why I always tried to make the best of them in the moment. While I do represent myself while I am broadcasting or covering a story, I see it as much more than that.

When I put the headset on or start typing away on my keyboard, I am docu-

menting the journey of many groups: the school, a team, a family and of course a student-athlete.

Why do I put so much effort and work into every broadcast? It is always because the SU student-athletes, families, friends and school administration have entrusted me to tell their stories, whether they consist of a single play, an entire season or a whole career.

That goes for opposing teams as well. For just that two- or three-hour period, I am representing their program and student-athletes, too. Because of those many phone calls to coaches across the NCAA Division III world, I have had the pleasure of meeting so many amazing leaders.

When I say to student-athletes or families that it is a pleasure and an honor to cover the SU programs, I truly mean it.

One of my most profound SU memories actually took place about 3.5 hours away from campus this past spring. SU Assistant Director of Sports Information Justin Farrell invited me on the road to help in covering the 2018 NCAA Semifinals for men's lacrosse.

The adventure up to Gettysburg College brought me much more than just aiding in SU's coverage of the game.

Farrell and I stopped for lunch in the middle of town before the game preparation began. As we waited for our food to come, a gentleman came up to our table. He said that he recognized me from the SU men's lacrosse broadcasts.

From what I recall, it was part of SU mid-fielder John Wheeler's family. Wheeler was listed as a native of Richardson, Texas, so he was very familiar with our SGSN broadcasts. The gentleman thanked me for the work we do to put the broadcast together.

Just having one moment like that reaffirms why I broadcast and cover sports.

During the actual game later that day, I was consistently going up and down the bleachers between the press box and the field retrieving game footage. On multiple occasions, I was stopped along the way with similar remarks from parents, fami-

lies and friends.

After the game, I also remember another father coming up to Farrell and I bordering the field following the SU victory.

It was that day this past spring that it all truly hit me. I knew that I only had a semester left, destined to graduate the following December. Hearing those kind words from the people that were ingrained in the stories and the journeys that I was documenting meant that I was doing SU Athletics justice, my original goal a few years ago.

While as a broadcaster and reporter it is always excellent to hear positive feedback, my goal in this role is to never be the focus of the game's coverage or of a headline. I am simply there to provide context and to document the history unfolding among our student-athletes and coaches every day.

Over the last few weeks, I have received similar remarks from coaches and other members of the SU community that I have worked closely with over the past 3.5 years. Nothing means more than to hear that.

While I do understand the "thank you" messages, I should be thanking you all instead.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your story, for entrusting me with the responsibility of telling your journey, whether over the air or on paper.

Thank you for being a part of my journey, whether in life or as a professional broadcaster and journalist.

I cannot begin to describe how much I have learned from you, the SU community. From falling in love with the game of lacrosse to simple interview sessions with coaches and players at practices, every detail has had a profound impact on myself.

Thank you to my family and friends for their love and support as always. Ask Brennan or Farrell about the amount of times they had notifications about the Mackowiaks doing something with "@susseagulls" on Twitter. I would love to know an actual stat for that, too.

Of course, thank you to the many facets throughout *The Flyer* over the past few years as I developed my written voice journalistically. Some of my best friendships have come through this organization.

While I might be the face or the voice you see or hear on SGSN each time the Sea Gulls are at home, there is an immensely talented group behind the scenes working as sports information staff, broadcasters, camera operators, replay technicians and computer operators. SGSN would be nothing without our team mentality. We are a family, plain and simple.

At some point, a new chapter always comes around the corner in the book of life. That point is now for me.

Signing off for a final time, I'm Chris Mackowiak – thank you, Sea Gull nation. Go Gulls. ●

MBK

/ from page 7

uate has blossomed on the court to start this year, harkening back to his freshman success at St. Mary's.

"It's a lot better [this year]. It's a lot more fun for me. I don't have to deal with injuries or go to the training room as often," Foley said.

Through SU's undefeated 9-0 start as of Dec. 10, Foley has been a consistent force on the offensive end, fourth on the team in both points per game (10.9) and third in field goal percentage at 54.5 percent. That scoring has come in big ways too, tallying two games at 20-plus points alongside a double-double against Lancaster Bible College.

At six-foot-six alongside his long wingspan, Foley has become a treat to fans in Maggs PAC, offering dunks to the audience while he works inside the paint. His greatest presence for Salisbury, though, may be what he does on the defensive end.

Starting in all games so far, Foley has filled a much-needed role inside for SU on both ends of the floor. With the departure of former forward and lead rebounder

Chad Barcikowski, he has quickly commanded attention inside the paint.

His teammate and senior forward Chase Kumor also sees Foley's rebounding as one of his greatest roles with the team. Kumor is the only current Sea Gull on the roster to have faced Foley while he was a Seahawk.

"Overall, he just got better this summer," Kumor said. "He did get healthy, that was one thing, but he's in great shape. He's really versatile. Just with his ability to finish, he's been going through people instead of fading away. That's his biggest difference this year, I think."

In the early part of the season, Foley is leading the Sea Gulls in rebounds per game (7.0) alongside extra defensive stops with 1.3 blocks per game. This progress has aided SU in its consistency on both ends of the floor and also its best start to a campaign in program history.

While Salisbury did not see the same offensive progress from the center position last season, the talent and depth was developing for this season and the ones ahead. Coming off the bench for Salisbury are also juniors J.P. Krotulis and Lucas Martin.

Krotulis started the final 18 games of last season as part of a starting lineup

change that spurred team progress on the floor. Martin has offered more scoring as his time in the maroon and gold has grown. The Broadlands, Va. native has had four double-figure games so far.

"He's all-around just a great talent to have," SU interim head coach Brian McDermott said. "While he has really helped with everything, he's really helping to lead the big men in the right direction. He's pretty much setting the tone for what we want to do inside."

The more veteran presence now inside the paint has paired with a team deep in experienced guards. Despite only 11 players on its roster, that formula has worked so far for Salisbury, still undefeated through a tough non-conference stretch.

With more weapons on the inside, opposing defenses must account for more Sea Gull options. If Foley and the other forwards can continue their production, Salisbury may have more of a say in the CAC title discussion than what is indicated by its fourth-place selection in the conference's preseason poll.

"I think everybody on our team just needs to do what they know how to do," Foley said. "Everyone just wants to help out each other. We all just want to win as a

team. We're all just doing our part." ●

Foley attempts a free throw against Goucher. Nov. 28. / Brendan Link image

